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THE GULL

BULLETIN

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The Gull's First Flight

In January, 1919, our young Association was still announcing its meetings with postal cards, and the "Bird Lore", which it sent to its members, lacked Pacific Coast bird news. Already proud of our position and having to report and record our accomplishments, we realized an obligation to publish our own organ. Timidly we appointed a committee to lay out a plan for the undertaking. The operation involved deciding what should be published, how much, by whom, style and size of the issues, name, cost, etc., so the committee occupied a long period for the incubation of the problem and merely reported "progress", while the Association had to sit and wait.

One Sunday, Harold Hansen, the Secretary, and C. B. Lastreto, the President, were at the Chain of Lakes on some bird work, when they suddenly realized that the notices for the coming Thursday meeting had not been prepared. It should not be that a precedent for tardiness be established. So, get cards. Where? None to be found. Envelopes and stamps? Yes, but no paper. Hansen knew of a Boy Scout with a toy press. They found him at home. Luck! Paper? Yes, but it was 7½" by 8½", and there was no cutter for card size. Why not our own brochure? The Secretary egged the President on to a bold accomplishment of the committee's unperformed task. So the young printer was put to work setting type. But what would be the heading and the name? Here is where the egg hatched, and *Larus Californicus*, THE GULL, stepped out with audacity and precocity, its down and pin-feathers emerging, even as words were being written while the printer kept up with his type. The Treasurer's report (in the President's pocket) added a full page and evidence of autonomous flight. The rest was routine, folding, addressing, stamping, etc., and off through the mails flew THE GULL to all its fellow members, who were proud to have a monthly messenger of their own.

At the next meeting the committee, through its chairman, A. S. Kibbe, announced it had been ready to report, but THE GULL was a fait accompli and was already in the sky. It later submitted to the operation of reduction to a smaller, standard size, recommended by engineer Kibbe. Yes, and hasn't *Larus* attained and maintained a respected position in fulfillment of its initial challenge, "Watch me soar!"?

— C. B. Lastreto, San Francisco, California

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November Field Trip to Mount Diablo, Contra Costa County

On Sunday, November 15th, 1942, thirty-three loyal Audubonites, undismayed by threatening weather, met for our 25th Anniversary Field Trip. From 40th and Broadway Streets, Oakland, we went through the tunnel to Lafayette, where we saw our first interesting group of birds, 350 or more Cedar Waxwing sitting upon wires and in trees along the roadside. It was too attractive a sight to pass without stopping, so here we remained for several minutes. Then to Walnut Creek and Danville, then in a southeasterly direction toward the Mount Diablo Country Club, arriving about 10:30 a.m.

This is excellent birding territory as there are many trees, shrubs, and underbrush.

California Woodpeckers, Redshafted Flickers, and several Sparrow Hawks were seen, Say and Black Phoebe noted, also Mourning Doves, Nuttall, Gambel and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Brown and Spotted Towhees attracted our attention. The Hermit Thrush, several Shrikes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Bewick Wren, Western Robins and a Slender-billed Nuthatch were added to our list.

Several showers on this walk tested our mettle, but they neither dampened our enthusiasm, nor hindered our search for the many feathered friends found in the vicinity. The God of winds and rain, pleased with our fortitude, decreed for the remainder of our trip a bright blue sky and crystalline atmosphere, the better to observe the wonderful sky colorings. Beautiful cumulus clouds with delicately tinted silver linings added to the magnificent picture throughout the balance of the day, with an occasional black cloud to vary the setting.

At 11:45 a.m. we started up the winding Mount Diablo grade and made a half-hour stop at the roadside rock quarry, elevation about 1500 feet. Mr. Walter Bradley, State Mineralogist, gave us a very interesting and instructive talk about the geological formation of the Mount Diablo region. Many fossils were gathered from the quarry by several of our enthusiastic fossil hunters.

Leaving the quarry we went to "Rock City", for our luncheon, and thanks to the foresight and generosity of Mrs. Austin and Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, all were served with excellent hot coffee, brewed before our eyes. At this point we added to our list, the Titmouse, Valley Quail and Downy Woodpecker.

After luncheon, short talks were made by Mrs. Kibbe, Mr. Brighton Cain, Mrs. Kelly and the writer, the latter three being past Presidents of the Association. Mr. Charles Fakler, Assistant Warden of the Mount Diablo Park, joined us and likewise made a brief talk, then piloted the caravan up the Mount Diablo Road for some distance where we were shown some large outcroppings of chert with explanations by Mr. Bradley as to its origin and characteristics. We retraced our steps to the North Gate, then we were led down the North road by the accommodating and courteous Assistant Warden, Mr. Fakler, to the exit.

The following list of 41 species was noted:

Cooper's Hawk	California Jay	Shrike
Red-tailed Hawk	Crow	Audubon Warbler
Sparrow Hawk	Titmouse	Meadowlark
Valley Quail	Bush-Tit	Red-winged Blackbird
Killdeer	Slender-billed Nuthatch	Brewer Blackbird
Band-tailed Pidgeon	Red-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Mourning Dove	Bewick Wren	Green-backed Goldfinch
Anna Hummingbird	Mockingbird	Spotted Towhee
Red-shafted Flicker	Robin	Brown Towhee
California Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Junco
Downy Woodpecker	Western Bluebird	Gamble Sparrow
Nuttall Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Sparrow Nuttall
Black Phoebe	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Say Phoebe	Cedar Waxwing	

Those attending were:

Misses: Kirk, Blake, MacIver, Sterne, Young, Wallace, and Fay.

Msmdames: Austin, Courtright, Kelly, Jones, Sheldon, Kibbe, Richardson, Eozant, Dickman and Kilham.

Messrs.: Kilham, Scott, Leffler, Cain, Meyer, Roush, Strandberg, Fischer, Ruffner, Greenwood, Mallory, Bradley, Wolff, Young, Mathews, and Webb.

This article would be incomplete without thanks to our President, Mrs. Austin, for her well thought out, excellently planned, and carefully executed arrangements for this trip. We need her leadership.

Dated: San Francisco, California, November 19, 1942.

—Joseph J. Webb

Reference Books for Those Far Afield

From time to time members of our association have been asked to suggest hand books on birds for service men who have been sent to distant parts of the world. In order to supply this information I have compiled the following bibliography. The list is by no means complete but with a desire to fill an immediate need it goes to print. As other publications come to my attention they will be added to this list.

- WHAT BIRD IS THAT? A guide to the birds of Australia, Neville W. Cayley; (Angus & Robertson, Ltd., Sydney, Australia), 1935.
- AN AUSTRALIAN BIRD BOOK — Pocket Book for Field Use, J. A. Leach; (Whitcombe & Tombs, Melbourne, Australia), 1912.
- THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA, A. H. S. Lucas; (Whitcombe & Tombs, London), 1911.
- NEW ZEALAND BIRDS, W. R. B. Oliver; (Wellington, N. Z.), 1930.
- NEW ZEALAND SONG BIRDS, Johannes C. Andersen; (Whitcombe & Tombs, London), 1926.
- BIRDS OF TASMANIA, Frank Mervyn Littler; (Launceston, Tasmania), 1910.
- POPULAR HANDBOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS, Hugh Whistler; (Gurney & Jackson, London), 1935.
- BIRD STUDY IN INDIA, M. R. N. Holmer; (Oxford University Press, London), 1926.
- BIRDS OF CALCUTTA, Frank Finn; (Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta, India-London), 1904.
- INDIAN BIRDS — BIRDS OF THE INDIAN HILLS; INDIAN BIRDS OF THE PLAINS; Douglas DeWar; (London.) No year given.
- BIRD LIFE IN INDIA, Captain R. S. P. Bates, M.B.O.V.; (Madras, India, Diocesan Press), 1931.
- GAME, SHORE AND WATER BIRDS OF INDIA, Colonel A. LeMessurier; (W. Thacker & Co., London and Calcutta), 1904.
- MANUAL OF THE BIRDS OF CEYLON, W. E. Wait; (Dulau & Co., Ltd., London), 1931.
- A HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF EASTERN CHINA, J. D. D. LaTouche; (Taylor & Francis, London). Vol. 1, 1925-30; Vol. II, 1931-34.
- SOUTH CHINA BIRDS, Harry R. and John C. Caldwell; (Hester May Vanderburgh, Shanghai), 1931.
- SHANGHAI BIRDS, E. S. Wilkinson; (Shanghai), 1929.
- BIRDS OF BURMA, B. E. Smythies; (American Baptist Mission Press, Rangoon), 1940.
- FAMILIAR HAWAIIAN BIRDS, J. d'Arcy Northwood; (Thomas Nickerson, Honolulu, H. I.), 1940.
- BIRDS OF THE HAWAIIAN POSSESSIONS, H. W. Henshaw; (Thomas Thrum, Honolulu, H. I.), 1902.
- EGYPTIAN BIRDS (Nile Valley), Charles Whympers; (Adams & Charles Black, London), 1909.
- BIRDS OF EUROPE AND NORTHERN AFRICA, Wardlaw Ramsay; (Gurney & Jackson, London), 1923.
- THE BIRDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, Dr. Austin Roberts; (H. F. & G. Witherby, Ltd., London. The Central News Agency, Ltd., Johannesburg, Transvaal), 1940.
- HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF WEST AFRICA, George Latimer Bates; (John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., London), 1930.
- A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND A RECORD OF THEIR NESTING HABITS; Captain Cecil D. Priest; (Witham Clowes & Sons, London), 1929.

- THE BIRDS OF NYASALAND, Chas. Frederic Belcher; (Crosby Lockwood & Son, London), 1930.
- THE BIRDS OF PORTUGAL, Wm. C. Tait; (H. F. & G. Witherby, London), 1924.
- THREE SUMMERS AMONG THE BIRDS OF RUSSIAN LAPLAND, Henry J. Pearson; (R. H. Porter, London), 1904.
- THE BIRDS OF IRELAND, Richard J. Ussher and Robert Warren; (Gurney & Jackson, London), 1900.
- BIRDS OF THE WAYSIDE AND WOODLAND, T. A. Coward; British Birds with 300 coloured illustrations; (Frederick Warne & Co., London and New York), 1936.
- THE BIRDS OF THE BRITISH ISLES AND THEIR EGGS, T. A. Coward, 1920.
- THE HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS, H. F. Witherby; (H. F. & G. Witherby., London), 1938. 5 volumes. This work is included because it is the best reference book and would be found in libraries.
- HOW TO KNOW BRITISH BIRDS, Norman H. Jay; (H. F. & G. Witherby, Ltd., London) 1936.
- MANUAL OF BRITISH BIRDS, Howard Saunders; (Gurney & Jackson, London), 1927.
- A POCKET BOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS, Chas. A. Hall; (A. & C. Black, Ltd., London), 1936.
- BIRDS IN BRITAIN TO-DAY, Geoffrey C. S. Ingram and H. Morrey Salmon; Ivor Nicholson & Watson, Ltd., London), 1934.
- BIRDS OF JAMAICA, Philip Henry Gosse; (John Van Voorst, London), 1847.
- BIRDS OF THE WEST INDIES, James Bond; (The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.), 1936.
- BIRDS OF LA PLATA, W. H. Hudson; (J. M. Dent & Sons, London & Toronto), 1920. 2 vols. (E. P. Dutton & Co., New York), 1938. Popular Edition, \$4.95.
- THE BIRDS OF BRITISH GUIANA, Chas. Chubb; (Bernard Quaritch, London), 1916.
- ARGENTINE ORNITHOLOGY, W. H. Hudson; (R. H. Porter, London), 1888. Birds of the Argentine Republic, 2 vols.
- THE BIRDS OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO, Richard Crawshay; (Quaritch, London), 1907.
- FIELD BOOK OF BIRDS OF THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE, Bertha B. Sturgis; (Putnam's Sons, New York), 1928.
- BIRDS OF THE OCEAN, W. B. Alexander; (Putnam's Sons, New York), 1928. \$3.50.
- CANADIAN LAND BIRDS, P. A. Taverner; (David McKay Co., Toronto, Canada), 1939.
- CANADIAN WATER BIRDS, P. A. Taverner; (David McKay Co., Toronto, Canada), 1939.
- These two Canadian books are new editions and are pocket size. \$2.50 each.
- BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK, Fauna Series No. 3 by Joseph S. Dixon; (United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.), 1938. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price, 35 cents.
- A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS, Roger T. Peterson; (Houghton Mifflin Co., New York), 1934. \$2.75.

—Junca W. Kelly

November 22, 1942.

The Flora on the Mt. Diablo Trip

The flora, both native and cultivated, added much to the pleasure of our Diablo field trip. Everybody was surprised to find such gorgeous fall coloring. The pear orchards had turned half red, half yellow; the groves of English walnuts were bronzey gold while the finer pinnate leaves of the black walnuts hung like gold lace from the huge trees. The willows and poplars were brilliant yellow. Even the common 'Fuzzy wuzzy' (*Bacharris pilularis*) along the road added a delicate touch with its white pappus. In many places copper-leaved plums (*Prunus Pissardi*) and bright red vineyards caused exclamations of joy. At times these yellows and reds were in strong contrast against the pepper trees with their red berries and against the live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). On the slopes of the mountain the Toyon berries (*Photinia arbutifolia*) were at their height. In the little ravines native grape vines with gold and red leaves festooned the live oaks and bay trees (*Umbellularia californica*).

The main botanical feature of the outing was a side trip to Mitchell Canyon near Clayton where, from the end of the road, a short walk took us to the big-cone pines (*Pinus coulteri*). This is the most northerly station for these trees. Their heavy dark gray needles, large cones and dense tops immediately set them apart from the digger pines (*Pinus sabiniana*) among which they grow. Everybody carried away one of the cones as a memento of a happy day.

—Junea W. Kelly

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Hallowe'en Party for Spastic Children of the East Bay

Through its chairman, Mrs. A. M. Newhall, our Committee for Education cooperated with the Spastic Children's Society of the East Bay in giving a Hallowe'en party to about thirty children in Oakland on October 29th. It was a very festive occasion. The children, ranging in age from two and a half to over twenty years, came all dressed up in gay and amusing costumes.

Mrs. Dorothy Sheldon told the true story of "Baby Hum". This little female Ruby-throated Hummingbird returned for seven consecutive years from its South American winter resort to its native apple orchard and to its faithful friends, the Alexander family, in Ellsworth, Maine. Then Mrs. Laurel Reynolds showed some of her films of California garden birds, including "Timmie the Robin", much to the joy of the children and their mothers. We hope that they are now becoming acquainted with the birds in their own neighborhoods!

With the generous contributions made by our members, the committee purchased materials and made thirty-five bright-colored scrap books, each containing six Audubon leaflets and other helpful guides to bird study. Our president, Mrs. Harold Austin, presented these to the children individually. Then she pinned on each costume a Junior Audubon button, making the boys and girls very happy indeed!

It is hoped that this educational work can be continued during the coming year. Anyone interested in contributing to the fund for the purchase of bird books, feeding trays, etc., may communicate with the chairman of the Committee for Education, Mrs. A. M. Newhall at the Berkeley Women's City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, California.

—Dorothy Dean Sheldon

Observations

The following observations were reported:

60 American Golden-eyes, 2 Canvas-backs, 1 American Egret, 1 Kingfisher, Lake Merritt, Nov. 12, Herman V. Leffler.

2 Ravens, Golden Gate Park, Oct. 17, Selma Werner.

2 California Clapper Rails, near Estuary Lake Merritt, Oct. 21, Jack Wolff.

2 Ravens, 1 Surf-Bird, 10 Brown Pelicans, 100 Brandt Cormorants, 100 Killdeer, several hundred Surf and White-winged Scoters, 1 dead Herring Gull, 2 Say Phoebes, Half Moon Bay, Oct. 10; 1 Black-throated Gray Warbler, Dimond Park, Oct. 24; 63 Black-crowned Night Herons, Lake Merritt, Nov. 5, Warren Fischer.

Anthony Green Heron, Dracina Park, Piedmont, Nov. 4; Shore birds numerous, including 10 Avocets, Alameda, Nov. 11, Junea W. Kelly.

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Audubon Notes

December Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 10th, at 8 p.m. in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Mrs. James T. Allen of Berkeley will be the speaker and her subject "Birds in Retrospect".

Members may bring guests.

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December Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, December 13th, to Lake Merritt in Oakland for our annual census of the water and land birds of that area. Members and friends will meet at the Duck Feeding Station at 10 a.m. San Francisco members take the "B" train at S. F. terminal at 9:25 a.m. and get off at Perkins and Grand Avenue. East Bay members take the No. 12 or No. 18 street car going out Grand Avenue. Groups with leaders will form at the Feeding Station. Bring luncheon.

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November Meeting: The 302nd regular meeting was held on the 12th in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library, President Mrs.

Harold C. Austin presiding.

In the absence of Mr. H. M. Bourland, Eastman Kodak Company photographer, Mr. Donald D. McLean, co-speaker of the evening and Economic Biologist of the State Fish and Game Commission spoke to us on duck disease showing pictures taken by him for the commission. The disease is caused by the poison of the *Bacillus botulinus*. Mr. McLean showed pictures of deer attacked by the screw worm, one of the species of Calliphoridae. Just as Mr. McLean says, pictures of this sort are not pretty but since such conditions exist it is well for us to know about them and also to know what the Commission is doing to prevent same. Mr. McLean also showed some of Mr. H. M. Bourland's films of ducks, geese and desert birds including splendid shots of the Vermilion Flycatcher.

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The following have been elected to membership: Miss Jean Bradford Fay, Mrs. George T. Kilham, Miss Blanche Wallace, Mr. John L. Wolff, San Francisco.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President	Mrs. Harold C. Austin.....	541 Boulevard Way, Piedmont
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley
Editor	Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds.....	140 Estates Drive, Piedmont

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 p.m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.